Crosstalk



The Parish Magazine of St Bartholomew with St Chad www.thurstaston.org.uk

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Diocese of Chester



April

Psalm8:3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers the moon and the which you have set in place, what are people that which you them, humans that you care for them. Psalm74:16 The day is Yours and Yours also the night: You established the sun and moon. night; You are the Lord, You made the heavens, the land and all that is on it, and all that is in them. Nehemiah 9:6 the seas the seas earth is the Lord's and everything psalm the world and all who live in it. Is aight of the psalm to be world sting God to psoling List and all who live in it. Is a interpretation of the earth of the ends of the earth o the world everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth

The views and opinions expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the editor, the Rector or the PCC.

Contents								
3	Diary Dates/Registers	15-	17 F.U.S.S.					
4-6	From your Rector	18	Cross Talk Subscriptions					
7	Spring Craft Fair	19	SOSO					
8	The Book of Nehemiah	20	Looking at our Community					
9	The Top Ten Bible Stories	21	LOL					
10	Songs of Praise	22	Bible Bite					
11	Wirral Foodbank	23	Mouse Makes					
12	Queen's birthday design	24-2	24-26 Advertisers					
13	Parish Outing/Mothers' Union	27	Contacts List: Who's Who					
14	Easy Fundraising	28	Church Services					

Magazine Subscriptions

These are now due for 2016. Details of how to pay on page 18

Diary Dates

Tuesdays

8pm at St Chad's

Monday 18th April

Wellspring

8pm at St Chad's

Wednesday 20th April

Mothers' Union (EMU)

Talk about charity work in Nepal

8pm at St Chad's

Saturday 30th April
Spring Craft Fair 1pm-3pm at
St Chad's (see page 7)
Tuesday 14th June
Parish Outing to Wales
(see page 13)

From the Registers

Funerals

We commend to God's eternal care

14th March Doreen Goodwin 18th March Pauline Argyle

From Your Rector

Dear Friends,

Sabbatical Reflections Gift, Challenge and What Now?

I have spent 10 weeks at Ripon College Cuddesdon (near Oxford). It is a theological college where ordinands train for ministry. I joined in with the worship life of the college:-

Monday - Creative Worship - different worship styles - no two weeks the same. Tuesday and Thursday - Evening Prayer (Common Worship and BCP).

Wednesday - College Eucharist - varying from very high including incense etc to a much simplified service with children.

Friday - Service of the word with a 3 minute reflection.

I have sat in on two lectures a week "Science and Theology" and "Spirituality and Discipleship". I enjoyed the opportunity to chat with students in the common room about theological issues related to their studies and/or the news. I knitted a jumper. And each Sunday, I visited a different church - with many different styles - Café church, large evangelical church with congregation of several hundred, catholic charismatic, Cathedral, healing service, messy church etc.

Gift: This time has been an enormous gift which provided me with time and space. I have been incredibly blessed by worship for which I had no responsibility. I have experienced God's healing and restoring which has been awesome. I have enjoyed exploring the countryside around college with Lily. Here is an extract of a prayer that I wrote at the end of the second week:-

For rolling hills and rainbows, praise the Lord.
For star filled skies and beautiful sunsets, praise the Lord.
For muntjac deer and red kites, praise the Lord.
For frolicking dogs and laughter, praise the Lord.

For the welcome and sanctuary of this place, praise the Lord.



Lord I came here seeking rest and refreshment,
but burden and torment cling to me.
Lord hear my prayer. Lord hear the cry of my heart.
......lots of personal stuff in here......
Lord God, be merciful as I open my heart and soul
and invite you in to do your work of healing.
Jesus, have compassion upon me as I face up to my sin.

Holy Spirit, breathe new life and refreshment into my soul.

Challenge: As I began to slow down and rest into the space that I had, so I realised that I was carrying with me a lot of emotional and spiritual baggage. At this point I asked an ordained member of the community if she would spend some time giving me spiritual direction. This was hard work and I had to face up to various issues which had left me spiritually exhausted and in desperate need of God's healing and restoring. Over several weeks, God's overwhelming generosity of love prevailed and I have a new sense of purpose and desire to serve Him.

I have also been challenged academically and theologically, both by lectures and by the people I have met.

What Now?

In the first week of my sabbatical I went to a rural parish church and was very moved by the service. The sermon spoke powerfully of God's calling, and as I went to receive communion the kneelers all had different saints upon them and I was astonished to find myself kneeling upon St. Bartholomew! It couldn't have been a much clearer sign that God was speaking to me and affirming my call to serve you.

In a College Quiet Day I was struck by the speakers comments about pastoral oversight of a parish. He described "to oversee" as a responsibility to see the things that others don't see and to see where God is at work within the parish and to build on that. This can only be achieved by time spent in prayer, so I am going to try to ensure that my life is ruled by prayer rather than by the demands of e-mail. To that end, I am going to set up my computer to only receive e-mails once a day. This may mean that you have to be more patient in awaiting a response (urgent things can always come by phone!), but it also means that my responses will be thought through rather than rushed, and more importantly that I will be focussed more on God.

I would love to see our Church growing and that will mean making sure that we have the right foundations in place. The book of Nehemiah is about rebuilding the temple of God and I would like to encourage as many of you as possible to commit to studying this book with me over six weeks in the Summer Term (see article later in magazine).

I have been truly blessed by the experience of anointing with oil and/ or laying on of hands for healing and would like to explore ways in which we might implement those opportunities within our worship. I have a huge desire that our congregations be united. It is a great distress to me that when we have a shared communion service we are unable to sing the liturgy as the two churches use different settings. I would therefore like to suggest that we explore other settings and find one that we can learn together and use as a tangible sign of our togetherness.

I'd like to encourage you to ensure that you speak to people who may be in our churches for the first time. Having spent 10 weeks as "the stranger", I experienced some very good welcomes and some non existent welcomes. It will be really good to share these experiences with the PCC and those of you who are sidespeople and welcomers.

And finally, I want to encourage you with two quotes and a song which I wrote into my journal during the sabbatical:-

"God does not need perfect people with whom to work. Our very imperfections emphasize the simple truth that we are wholly dependent upon God, justified by God's faithfulness not by our own actions." Taken from "Reflections for Daily Prayer", Church House Publishing.

"Communion with God in the silence of the heart is a God-given capacity, like the rhododendrons capacity to flower, the fledglings for flight, and the child's for self forgetful abandon and joy." Taken from "Into the silent land" by Martin Laird.

May God Bless You.

Revd Jane





Spring Craft Fair

Saturday 30th April at St Chad's Church

1pm-3pm

Entrance fee: 50p for adults to include unlimited tea or coffee

Stalls to include Art, Jewellery, Cards, Crafts, Face painting, Needlework, Picture frames, Hair accessories etc.,

Raffle

Both Irby Primary & Dawpool Primary to have their own stalls

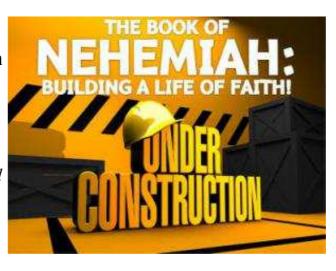
Volunteers needed to make and sell home made cakes, and to serve tea & coffee

Church will be having a stall so if you do not want your own stall, but can make and donate handmade craft items then please speak to Julie DeBoorder on 648 6331

You are invited to Come and study the book of Nehemiah

St Chad's Extension
at the dates and times shown below.

Each session will run twice, so please choose
whichever day and time is best for you and feel
free to swap and change week by week!
We will meet for up to 90 minutes,
read the Bible together,
discuss what we read and pray together.



Everyone Welcome.

Please come even if you've never been to any kind of Bible study group before!

Revd Jane will be printing a booklet to go with the sessions, so it would be really helpful if you could let her know if you plan to come. She will print a few extra booklets anyway, so please do turn up on the spur of the moment as well!

Build on the Foundation of Prayer: Nehemiah 1v1 - 2v10 Thurs 28th April 2.00pm, Sun 1st May 7.30pm

> **Building Together: Nehemiah 2v11 - 3v32** Thurs 5th May 2.00pm, Sun 8th May 7.30pm

Building despite Opposition: Nehemiah chapters 4 and 6 Thurs 12th May 2.00pm, Sun 15th May 7.30pm

Building by the Book: Nehemiah 7v1-5 and 7v73 - 8v18 Thurs 19th May 2.00pm, Sun 22nd May 7.30pm

Half Term

Interior Decoration: Nehemiah chapter 5 and 9 Sun 5th June 7.30pm, Thurs 9th June 2.00pm

Building Maintenance: Nehemiah 12v27 - 13v31Sun 12th June 7.30pm, Thurs 16th June 2.00pm

The top 10 Bible stories: no. 8: David and Goliath

Five Smooth Stones!

This month's *Must Know Story*, about Goliath's defeat by David (1 Samuel 17), is one of the best known in the Bible. Goliath was nine feet tall, dressed in bronze armour and carrying a sword and spear. However, David was a young shepherd, whose only weapon was a sling and five smooth stones. We won't face somebody like Goliath, but will face other giants in our lives (fear, insecurity, loneliness, failure etc). What five stones can help overcome the giants that we face?

- Courage: David was unafraid of Goliath, 'Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.' (32). We need courage to face the giants in our lives.
- Confidence: David's experience as a shepherd gave him confidence in facing Goliath. 'The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.' (37). We also can be confident in God's help to overcome our problems.
- Preparation: 'Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.' (40). Like David, are we using the gifts and experience that God has given us in the fight?
- Trust: David didn't trust in his own abilities, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty' (45) Will we put our trust in God alone?
- Victory: 'for the battle is the Lord's' (47). When we turn our battles over to God, He will give us victory!

'That little stone took Goliath by surprise; such a thing had never entered his head before!!'

PENTEGOST LIVE// SONGS OF PRAISE

Songs of Praise is coming to Liverpool Cathedral in May for a special recording of music for future programmes and for a live ecumenical broadcast on Pentecost Sunday.

Songs of Praise // Saturday 14th May 4.30pm - 7.30pm*

Pentecost Live // Sunday 15th May Seated by 9.15am for the 10am service

Entry is free and all are welcome. If you are interested in attending, call us on 0161 335 8429 or you can go online at www.bbc.co.uk/songsofpraise.



PLEASE HELP WIRRAL FOODBANK



General enquiries Tel: 0151 638 7090 enquiries@wirralfoodbank.org.uk

Winner of church school design competition for Queen's birthday

The winner of a church school competition to design a logo for the C of E's celebrations in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday has been announced. The logo, designed by Lucas Salinger, aged 10, from Potten End C of E Primary School in Hertfordshire, was picked from over 1000 entries.

Lucas, whose village school is near Berkhamsted said: 'I feel amazed that my design was chosen. I feel lost for words!'

Head teacher Andrew Morris said: 'I am extremely proud that a member of my school has won the competition, out of so many entries.'

Official celebrations will take place in London between the 10^{th} – 12^{th} June, including a thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral, a Birthday Parade on Horse Guards Parade and a street party in The Mall. It is envisaged that church events will be integrated into local community celebrations that take place that weekend.



Parish Outing

Come and join us on a parish outing to Wales on Tuesday 14th June. Driving through the Conway Valley, stopping for coffee at Llangollen & lunch at Llandudno.

Book your place ASAP. Seats £15.00.

Give your name and a non-refundable £5.00 deposit to Leslie Worrall or Alan Jones or put in an envelope and deliver to the Parish Office.

Depart from The Rectory, 77 Thingwall Road at 9.30am.









EMU (Evening Mothers' Union) meets:One Wednesday in each month, 8.00pm at St Chad's
for more information contact Chris Rostock (648 1112)
Next meeting



Wednesday 20th April 8pm at St Chad's

Talk about charity work in Nepal.

Help St Bartholomew Thurstaston and St Chad Irby raise FREE funds when you shop online!

Every time you shop, you'll raise a donation for us and it won't cost you a penny extra!

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2. Hit the shops

When you shop online, visit easyfundraising first, click through to the retailer and shop as normal. Everything costs exactly the same

3. Earn donations

With every purchase you make you'll raise a donation from the retailer. Your donations are then transferred to **St Bartholomew Thurstaston**





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FREE UNIFORM for SECONDARY SCHOOL

We aim to supply **FREE** school uniform, PE kit, etc. used by the 22 secondary schools in Wirral. Currently we have links with 17 of these schools.

AND NOW..... F.U.P.S. – Free Uniform for Primary School

In 2015 Wirral FUPS (Free **U**niform for **P**rimary **S**chools) has started at two of our hubs, with more due soon. Currently, we have uniform for around 20 of the 98 primary schools in Wirral.

Since 2012 Wirral F.U.S.S. has helped more than 1500 families with their school uniform needs – all free of charge.

All our uniform is in good condition.

Uniform can be picked up by appointment from one of our 6 (soon to be 7) local 'hubs'. Several of our hubs also have regular open days, where you can come along and try items on, or swap your current outgrown uniform for larger items.

AND you can request items ONLINE at www.wirralfuss.co.uk and arrange to pick them up later.

How does FUSS work?

Wirral FUSS receives items of uniform and other clothing donated via our collection drums located in many Wirral schools, at our HUBS, on Open Days, at ASDA in Woodchurch and Birkenhead, and the Conway Centre.

All items are sorted for quality, minor repairs made, washed and ironed if necessary, labelled and stored by our **volunteers** (you can volunteer via our website).

Items that cannot be re-used are sold for recycling, all of which means that a huge amount of artificial fibre does not end up in landfill!

Wirral FUSS works to encourage the free distribution of school uniforms for re-use be families, without judgement of circumstances.

Wirral FUSS aims to follow the Christian principles of compassion, integrity, kindness and care; demonstrating faith-in-action – God's love for all.

For more information please contact us: on 0151 632 6524 or wirralfuss@yahoo.co.uk or visit us at St Luke's Methodist Church, Market Street, Hoylake (9 till 1 most Mondays & Wednesdays)

Andy Kemp (Development Coordinator) Sheila Fowler (Director)

"School uniform is a constant source of anxiety. I am not ashamed of being poor but I always want my children to look as well cared for as others."

- Recent research, undertaken independently by The Children's Society and Family Action, has
 discovered that families spend an average of £320 on uniform when their child starts secondary school and £250 at primary school.
- A family with one child in each sector will spend between 30% and 40% of their August budget on new items of school uniform. Many families end up in debt or are forced to cut back on essentials to pay for school clothes, PE kit, shoes, bags etc.
- Analysis by the charities suggests that nearly 800,000 pupils go to school in poorly-fitting uniform because their parents cannot afford to keep buying new items, while a further 400,000 have been sent home for wearing 'incorrect' clothes. Around a quarter of a million children have had their school chosen based on the cost of its uniform!
- Issues around school uniform risk dividing pupils into the 'haves and have-nots', leaving those
 without the right kit at risk of bullying and embarrassment.
- £2.1billion is spent each year on school clothes in the UK, more than twice the amount predicted if schools were adhering to the Government guidelines on school uniform policy.
- Government guidelines on school uniform, issued in 2012 and reviewed in 2015, emphasize
 the importance of cost considerations. School uniform should be easily and cheaply sourced,
 should be available from a wide range of retailers, and compulsory branded items should be
 kept to a minimum. If schools engage in agreements with specific suppliers, the financial savings should be returned to parents and the agreement regularly reviewed to ensure best value.
- The Children's Society is calling for Government guidance to be made statutory and reissued to schools, and that the Government should also look at capping the cost of uniforms.

Wirral FUSS was set up as both a response to social need around the impact of school uniform costs on the budgets of families with low incomes, and, as a means of encouraging recycling and reducing the quantity of artificial fibre entering land-fill.

We received start-up funding from local Waste Management, the Eleanor Rathbone Trust, the John Moores Foundation and The Methodist Church - the project originated within the Methodist Church but is ecumenical (working with the United Reformed Church, the Church of England and the Wirral Christian Centre) and works with and through secular organisations, especially schools.

Wirral FUSS is a voluntary organization, currently working under the charitable umbrella of The Methodist Church (St. Luke's, Hoylake).

For more information and contact details, please visit our website:

www.wirralfuss.co.uk

The Parish of St. Bartholomew's Thurstaston, with St. Chad's, Irby will be opening a uniform 'hub' in St Chad's Church, Irby.

The PCC are very keen to support this project and our local community, by offering the church building for use as a local hub and Margaret Fletcher will co-ordinate the pick-up of uniforms by families.

On behalf of our Parish, Margaret will work with Wirral FUSS to offer the free distribution of school uniforms for re-use, without judgement of circumstances. Wirral FUSS aims to follow the Christian principles of compassion, integrity, kindness and care; demonstrating faith-in-action – God's love for all.

If you would like to help with the preparation of uniforms (minor repairs, washing and ironing, if necessary), please speak to Margaret.

For more information, please visit the website:

www.wirralfuss.co.uk



"See you back here again for her wedding?"

"Cross Talk Subscription for 2016 is £5.00"

These are now due for 2016. If you see your deliverer please pay them. Alternatively either post a cheque for £5.00 payable to Thurstaston PCC, to St Chad's Church Office, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH or pay on-line at 40.52.40 00018674, putting your surname and mag subs as reference.

$_{\square}$ I enclose	£5 and	d would	like to	continue	to have	Cross	Talk	delivered	to my
house									

 $\ \square$ I no longer wish to have Cross Talk delivered to my house

Name:_____

Address:

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Looking at your Community

David Winter considers those chance happenings...

The Way I see It – those amazing coincidences

The next time you have friends round, why not try this experiment. Invite each of them to recall the most amazing coincidence they have experienced in the last ten years.

Given a few minutes to recall, it's certain the stories will roll out. The day when they went up to London and in Piccadilly Circus met a very old friend they hadn't seen for years on a one-off visit from Glasgow. Or how they were on a tour of historic sites in Turkey and during a comfort break met a couple from their own road in Chesterfield. Or how on the birthday of a late and much-loved wife her favourite hymn was sung on 'Songs of Praise'. When everyone is finished, tot up the odds against all of these things happening. If there's a mathematician or statistician present they may do it for you.

I heard recently of a bereaved father who had an experience of this kind, involving 'University Challenge' and events connected with his student son. In this case he did some research – including the production team of the programme - and worked out that the odds against this particular occurrence were more than five million to one.

No one seems to have any explanation for this, beyond that, well, strange things happen. But 'coincidence', as we call it, can't surely be so lightly dismissed. The old preachers called it 'providence', and said that 'God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform'. I think I'm with them.

David Pickup, a solicitor, considers buying over the internet

The perils of buying on-line

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:11-13 (NIV)

We usually know what to ask for, don't we! But sometimes things go wrong. Imagine you are at home on the computer ordering a present for your loved one's birthday, there is a knock at the door and a local gardening company has come round and offered to cut your lawn every week for a fee, and then your friendly solicitor visits you to talk about doing a will. Then someone calls at the door offering you a gym membership. A typical day at home?

I suppose many of us would not buy at the door at all or let a stranger in. It is risky giving your bank or credit card details to a stranger or letting in any you do not know. Police services and local council offer "No cold-calling" or "We never buy at the door" signs to residents in many places. Always make sure you know who you are dealing with. Many fake and stolen goods are offered door to door. If you need a gardening or building job doing, ask around locally to find someone who is recommended. Look in your parish magazine for a trusted trader! Beware people who say they are working in the area and noticed you have some tiles missing or a similar story.

The law is complicated, but in many situations if you buy on-line or in your house you have a fourteen-day period to change your mind. This also applies to services and not only goods. So this can include the man cutting your grass or a professional person giving advice like a will.

If you buy on line you have rights to information about the goods, your rights and all charges. They must confirm the order if you shop on line.

The best advice is think first!



Do it

Here's a sure-fire way to cross off every item on your To-Do list: Do the chores first, then write them down and *then* cross them off!

Heaven

Seen in a parish magazine: "We shall be meeting on Wednesday when the subject will be 'Heaven - how do we get there?' Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms.

**

Choir

Seen in a parish magazine: Next Sunday the choir will give a recital, after which the church will be closed for repairs.

Who is he?

A musical concert was about to be performed in a prison. The Governor was talking to a titled lady guest, explaining that the orchestra was made up of murderers, embezzlers and other hardened criminals. The lady then pointed to a man in the corner, holding a trombone. 'He looks a tough customer,' she whispered. "Whatever has HE done?' The Governor paused and smiled. 'Ah, actually, he is the chaplain.'

What am I?

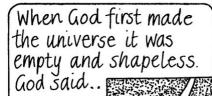
I'm not old. I woke up, I lifted my arms, I moved my knees, I turned my neck. Everything made the same noise: Crrrrraaaaaaaccccckkkk! So I've come to the conclusion that I'm not old, I'm crispy!

Children's Pages

BIDDE BIRE

A short story from the Bible

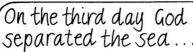
It can be read in the Buble in Genesis chapter 1 to 2 verse 3. This story is at the start of the Bible, and the start of time...



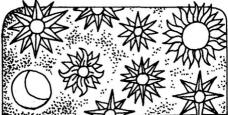
Let there be light!









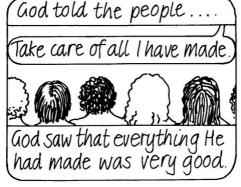


On the fourth day God made lights shine in the sky for day and night.

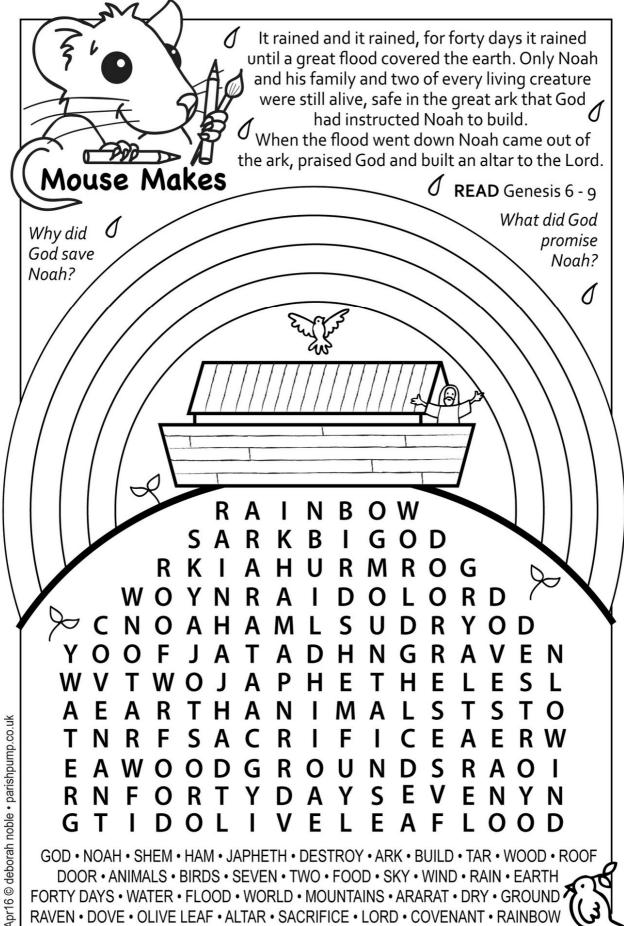














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Verger **Christian Aid Representative**

648 6171 Vacant Mrs Joyce Ratcliffe

135 Thingwall Road Irby CH61 3UD

Children's Society Representative

Mrs Jean Heath **Organist** 648 6015

Mr Craig Vickers 648 7405

34 Townsend Avenue Irby CH61 2XW **Leprosy Mission Representative**

> Mrs Pat Hulme 538 1953

Electoral Roll

c/o Church Office 648 8169 Adoption Society Representative

> Mrs Chris Rostock 648 1112

Church Services - April

Sunday Services

St Bartholomew's		St Chad's
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.15am Holy Communion	3rd April Easter 2	9.30am Morning Worship
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.15am Morning Worship	10th April Easter 3	9.30am Family Communion
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.15am Holy Communion	17th April Easter 4	9.30am Morning Worship
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.15am Holy Communion 3.00pm Baptism	24th April Easter 5	9.30am Holy Communion
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.15am Holy Communion	1st May Easter 6	9.30am Family Service

Weekday Services

Holy Communion celebrated at St Chad's each Wed 10.15am ALL WELCOME

Baptisms and Weddings

To arrange a baptism or wedding, please telephone the Rector, Revd Jane Turner on 0151 648 1816 or the Church office on 0151 648 8169.

PLEASE NOTE: Rector's day off - Tuesday

RECTOR: Revd Jane Turner

The Rectory, 77 Thingwall Road, Irby, Wirral, CH61 3UB Telephone: 0151 648 1816 (*Day off Tuesday*) E-mail: rector@thurstaston.org.uk

CHURCH OFFICE: Mrs C Rostock St Chad's Church, Roslin Road, Irby, CH61 3UH
Telephone: 0151 648 8169. E-mail: office@thurstaston.org.uk
OPEN TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 9.30am - 12.30pm (term time)

PARISH WEBSITE: www.thurstaston.org.uk